

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 7, 1897, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. July 7th., 1897 My darling Alec:

I am awfully sorry but I get so interested in a story book last night that I fairly forgot to write you. I am the more sorry that I hope this won't reach you, as it means such a prolonged stay in a hot place.

This has been Mr. Kennan says the hottest day he has known here being nearly 92° in the shade. Only once before in his six years of residence here has his thermometer reached 91°. It has been perfectly comfortable here always some breeze. The children went in bathing off the rocks and your Father and I went down to the summer house to watch them.

We have just come home from the famous strawberry festivals. The children got up some tableaux as a wind-up this evening for the Presbyterians. I only saw three of them. The first was Gibsons "In the Garden of Youth" Elsie all in white silk with bare neck and arms and George McRae by her side his head bent over her hand while all around are flowers with cherubs heads among them. This was extremely pretty. Next was Gibsons "Newly Married" third was Red Rose and White Rose. Daisy was the Red but was not a success. By this time the hall was simply packed there being hardly room to breathe in, for Baddeck is crowded with Knights Templars their wives and cousins, and they seemed all to have come to the Festival. Though absent in body, your influence was present with me and I became uncomfortably aware that not only was it fearfully hot but that the childrens dresses were flimsy, the curtain also and the lamps very near and numerous. In a panic it would have been utterly impossible for half the people to get out unhurt, so I forced my way cut, sent Angus for a bucket and Mr. Ashill for a fishing rod with a wet sponge and

Library of Congress

then waited most anxiously feeling the utter inadequateness of my means of prevention, until the performance was successfully over. I was glad to be safely rowing across the still lake with my children by me unhurt. They did well, and the receipts must have swelled enormously. I am expecting Grace and Miss Fuller tomorrow and will take your Father to meet them at the Grand Narrows.

I think of you constantly and hope you are not suffering very much.

Ever and ever yours, Mabel. I think you might have telegraphed about your arrival and lecture.